

# Green Oasis

*The Official Newsletter of Liberty*

FALL 2012

*The Green Oasis is published by Liberty State Park.*

*We encourage and welcome your comments and suggestions. If you have any ideas for articles for upcoming issues, please contact us at (201) 915-3409.*

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New Jersey Department of  
Environmental Protection

Division of Parks and Forestry  
State Park Service

Chris Christie, Governor  
Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor  
Bob Martin, Commissioner

## Empty Sky Memorial Dedicated at LSP



*"Let this memorial reflect the legacies of those whose lives were lost, that their unfulfilled dreams and hopes may result in a better future for society. Their unique qualities and characteristics enriched our lives immeasurably, and through this memorial their stories shall live on."*

*Family & Survivor Advisory Committee New Jersey 9/11 Memorial Foundation*

On September 10, 2011, New Jersey unveiled the Empty Sky Memorial at Liberty State Park. Thousands gathered at the dedication ceremony to honor the 746 New Jersey residents who lost their lives in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. They were joined by several state officials and lawmakers, including Gov. Chris Christie and five former state governors.

Designed by architects Frederic Schwartz and Jessica Jamroz, the memorial's twin stainless steel walls are divided by a granite walkway. The structure is composed of two 30-foot-high rectangular towers that stretch 208 feet, 10 inches long, the exact width of the World Trade Center Towers. The name of each of the 746 victims from New Jersey is etched in the stainless steel in 4-inch-high letters.

The Memorial is located on the north side of Liberty State Park, directly across the river from where the World Trade Center Towers once stood. Visitation is free and available during normal park hours 6am-10pm daily. Parking is available in adjacent lot.



## Liberty Launches NY-NJ Harbor Estuary Earthcaching Discovery Trail

In partnership with Going Coastal, Liberty State Park is excited to launch the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Earthcache Discovery Trail. The program combines the popular outdoor activity of geocaching with Harbor Estuary environmental education- think high tech treasure hunt with a big splash of natural resource education.

The Trail includes a set of earthcaches that highlight the amazing geology and ecology of Liberty State Park. The self-guided pace and educational component allows visitors to discover and appreciate the beauty and natural history of the Harbor Estuary while exploring the resources with GPS technology. It is a fun way to explore the harbor estuary, connect to the resource and promote good stewardship through a family-friendly activity appropriate for all ages!

Anyone with a GPS device or smart phones can download the Trail from [earthcache.org](http://earthcache.org). Schools and organized groups can schedule a program through the park's Nature Interpretive Center at (201) 915-3409. More information is available at [goingcoastal.org](http://goingcoastal.org). This project was created by Going Coastal in partnership with Liberty State Park with support from the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary Program and the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission.

## Oral History Project for the CRRNJ Railroad

*By Scott Reitmeier*

In 2002, a series of interviews of the Central Railroad of New Jersey (CRRNJ) employees were conducted. The interviews explore various aspects of life and work along the railroad in New Jersey including passenger service through the Jersey City Terminal and the massive amounts of freight traffic along the piers and within the state as a whole. The stories are rich and anecdotal tales, filled with descriptions of individual experience and varying types of work.

The interviews were originally recorded on video and are in the process of being converted into DVD format and hopefully, eventually into digital format. By doing this the interviews can be better preserved and used for the education program at the Terminal. The next phase of the project is transcribing the interviews to create another format for historical research and education. One of the main objectives is to make sure that these interviews are preserved and the stories of the CRRNJ may live on. These interviews are priceless and are a great addition to the educational and historical interpretation of the CRRNJ Terminal.





## Snowshoeing in the Shadow of Manhattan

*By Diana Russler and Bill Gent*



Snowshoeing is one of the fastest growing winter sports – and with good reason! Anyone can do it! If you can walk, you can snowshoe – irrespective of your age! It is easy to learn and a fantastic way to get outside and exercise – even when it is freezing!

Snowshoeing has been around for thousands of years. The 5,000-year-old iceman discovered in the glaciers of the Dolomites had remnants of snowshoes with him. Fur traders and trappers used them for generations. Their snowshoes were the traditional models that looked like tennis rackets – a hardwood frame and rawhide lacings to attach them to the feet.

Modern snowshoes are high-tech, made of lightweight materials with latticework and upturned toes to keep snow from accumulating on the surface. The snowshoe works by distributing your weight over a large area that keeps your foot from sinking deep into the snow. No other special equipment is required. You can use regular waterproof boots that slip into the mounting.

Unless you want to engage in hard-core mountaineering (when a special snowshoe is required), there are two types to choose from – the recreational model which is longer and designed for moderate use, or the running/aerobic model which is quite short and is designed for those who want to continue running and hiking, even in the winter.

You can snowshoe anyplace where there are at least 6 inches of snow – in the woods, in the parks, in the city. You don't need specially groomed trails or ski lifts. Just be sure to dress in several layers that open because you are likely to get warm as you tramp through the snow. Apparently an hour of snowshoeing burns 600 calories.

Our favorite place to snowshoe is Liberty State Park, across the Hudson River from the canyons of Manhattan. Wide open fields, blue skies and magnificent vistas! And most of the time we are the only people in the park! It is quite surrealistic standing alone on the west bank of the Hudson River looking over to where millions of people are living their lives!



*(Continued on Page 4)*



Unlike skis and snowboards, renting snowshoes is a bit harder – very few stores offer the option in the New York City area. However, they are relatively inexpensive to purchase and will provide you with hours of entertainment and exercise. So come out from hibernation! Strap on a pair of snowshoes and enjoy the beauty of the winter.

*To view this article in its entirety, please visit <http://allegriatravels.blogspot.com/2011/01/01archive.html>*

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## Kayak Report

Liberty State Park recently completed the second season of its popular kayak eco-tours. The park was able to increase the number of participants in each tour thanks to the purchase of two additional kayaks by the Friends of Liberty State Park.

The park's Natural Resource Interpretive Center staff worked with interns from New Jersey City University to conduct a total of 23 eco-tours and an additional four mini tours during the July 16th City of Water Day Festival, giving 206 participants an opportunity to experience the beauty of the Hudson River Estuary by kayak.



Sightings on the water included foraging black skimmers, common terns, double crested cormorants and ospreys. Beachcombing expeditions turned up horseshoe crabs, sea sponges, and mud dog whelks. Great blue herons and great egrets were common visitors to the tidal marshes, showcasing the diversity of species that make the river their home.

If you are interested in attending a kayak tour next season, please contact the Nature Interpretive Center at (201)915-3409 or [lspic@verizon.net](mailto:lspic@verizon.net) to be added to our mailing list. A program schedule for the 2012 season will be sent out mid spring. The program is free, but pre-registration is required.



## Great Blue Heron *A Bird for All Seasons*

*By Patricia Hillard*



Diana Russler

In every season you can find the great blue heron at Liberty State Park, but you must look carefully. The bird's blue-gray feathers help it to blend into its environment. It is especially difficult to see during winter when the sky is drab and the water looks murky. The great blue heron's head and neck are striped with black and white feathers. Under its blue-gray body, the heron's upper leg feathers are rusty brown and lower leg feathers are white. The heron's long legs and neck give it a height of up to four feet. Its wings can have a span of up to six feet. Its yellow bill is thick like a dagger.

At Liberty State Park, you will often find the heron wading in and around the edges of ponds and coves, ever ready to stab at fish with its bill. When ponds are frozen, you will find the heron along the saltwater shoreline. During windless days, it will warm itself in the sun by standing on the big rocks along the shore. For protection from cold winter winds, the heron steps into the tall grass to hide. Great blue herons build nests in the tops of trees where they lay two to six eggs.

Identifying the great blue heron can sometimes be tricky. Be careful not to confuse this heron with the tri-colored heron, which has a white belly or the little blue heron, which has a completely blue body. On rare occasions, the great blue heron can be born with all white feathers. When this happens, it can be confused with the great egret. The difference is that the great blue heron has a much heavier body and a tuft and head plum that the egret lacks.

Come to Liberty State Park any season to enjoy watching birds such as the great blue heron as well as a great variety of wildlife.

Liberty State Park invites you to :

# The Haunted Park!

Come out for a scary good time and learn a little haunted history along the way!



The Haunted Terminal is a walking tour and hayride and contains components that may be unsuitable for children under the age of 10. Sorry, but due to hayride - no stroller or wheelchairs are allowed. Children 16 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

**October 26 & 27, 2011 evenings**

For ticketing, purchase at the Liberty Landing Marine Store located in the Liberty Landing Marina, Liberty State Park. For more information please call 201-985-8000 x 113 \$5 per adult and \$3 per child.

Liberty State Park would like to thank the following for their generous support:

Friends of Liberty State Park  
Liberty Landing Marina  
Statue Cruises  
Liberty House Restaurant  
Maritime Parc Restaurant  
Offshore Sailing  
Camp Liberty



# SAVE THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!!

## LIBERTY STATE PARK'S INTERPRETIVE CENTER PUBLIC PROGRAMS



### BIRD WALK

October 22, 2011

February 4, 2012

March 10, 2012

10am – Noon

#### FREE, Pre-Registration Required

Join us for a leisurely stroll along the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway in search of winter visitors to the park. Possible species sightings may include ruddy ducks, mergansers, grebes, buffleheads and many more. Dress to be outside, bring binoculars if you have them, we have a limited number that can be borrowed.



### RECYCLED CRAFTS

November 5, 2011

10am – Noon



#### FREE, Pre-Registration Required

Think twice before you throw away that egg carton or toilet paper tube, it can be used to create all kinds of crafts. Join us to see how to reduce waste by re-using some common household items. From cards to napkin rings, we will help you get ready for the holidays.



### FOR THE BIRDS

December 17, 2011

10am – Noon



#### FREE, Pre-Registration Required

Come to the Interpretive Center and make some tasty treats that you will take home and put outside to help our feathered friends make it through the cold days of winter.



### NATURE DISCOVERY DAY

January 21, 2012

March 3, 2012

10am – Noon

#### FREE, Pre-Registration Required

Which tree did that leaf come from? What bird is in your backyard? Our hands-on activity stations will allow you to answer these questions and more, at our nature discovery day.



### WORM WORLD

March 24, 2012

10 – 11:30am

#### FREE, Pre-Registration Required

Come explore the fascinating world of worms and vermiculture. Meet the worms up close and learn how they turn our food waste into compost. Find out how to set up your own worm bin at home.

### PAPERMAKING

February 25, 2012

10am – Noon

#### FREE, Pre-Registration Required

Liberty State Park staff will lead you in a hands-on workshop creating your own paper from used paper and natural materials.



NJ Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Parks & Forestry  
State Park Service

If you would like to register for any of the above programs, complete the form below, be sure to include the program title and date. Mail your completed registration form to: Liberty State Park, Interpretive Center, 200 Morris Pesin Dr., Jersey City, NJ 07305. We will send you a confirmation of your registration and directions to our location. For further information, call (201) 915-3409. You can also fax your registration to (201) 915-3442 or email us at [lsPIC@verizon.net](mailto:lsPIC@verizon.net). **Spaces are limited! Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Groups of 8 or more call for special arrangements.**

#### PLEASE PRINT & INCLUDE COMPLETE ADDRESS

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Date & Title of Program: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF ATTENDEES: \_\_\_\_\_